

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. A coupling assembly comprising a base, a member which is movable relative to said base, and a roller thrust bearing assembly which is effective to transmit force along a force transmission path extending between said member and said base, said roller thrust bearing assembly includes a disc with an annular array of spaced apart slots, each slot of said annular array of slots having a longitudinal central axis which is skewed at an angle relative to a disc radius extending through a longitudinal central axis of the slot, and a plurality of roller bearings disposed in each slot of said plurality of slots.
2. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein each one of said roller bearings in each of said slots has a central axis which extends parallel to the longitudinal central axis of the slot in which said one roller bearing is disposed.
3. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said plurality of roller bearings in each of said slots are disposed in a coaxial relationship.
4. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said plurality of roller bearings includes four bearings disposed in a coaxial relationship in each of said slots.
5. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said roller bearings has a length to diameter ratio of three or less.

6. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said roller bearings of said plurality of roller bearings in each of said slots has an end surface which is disposed in engagement with an end surface on a next adjacent roller bearing.

7. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said annular array of slots includes first slots having a first length and second slots having a second length which is less than said first length, said second slots being interspersed with said first slots in said annular array of slots.

8. A coupling assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said first slots contains a first number roller bearing and each of said second slots contains a second number of roller bearings, said second number being less than said first number.